

where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) establishing the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus substitute budget for fiscal year 1997. This alternative reflects the vision of a caring majority. Unlike the Republican majority budget which dramatically threatens the health of millions of Americans, the CBC and Progressive Caucus' substitute protects the health of those in the dawn of life, our children, and those in the twilight of life, our seniors.

The Republican measure continues their assault on the health of the weakest among us by gutting \$158 billion from Medicare, gutting \$72 billion from Medicaid, forcing seniors to pay more for less health care, denying health care services to children aged 13 to 18, and eliminating the guarantee of coverage for all low-income seniors who cannot afford Medicare. The list of pain and suffering goes on and on.

Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus alternative budget overturns the assault on the health of the American people, while also balancing the budget. The CBC budget increases funding for the program authorized under the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act in an effort to ensure an adequate supply of health care professionals in medically underserved areas; provides the resources necessary to adequately address the toxic waste disposal problem as outlined in the Environmental Justice Act and provides funding for historically black colleges' hospitals which have traditionally provided health care services for disadvantaged populations. To further progress in addressing the Nation's substance abuse problem, the measure increases funding to provide for a more comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention initiative.

With respect to Medicare and Medicaid the Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus substitute ensures that current coverage of Medicaid and Medicare is preserved and strengthened. All savings generated from

these programs are reinvested into strengthening these critical health care programs, not destroying them.

To ensure continued improvements in the health of the American people, the measure also retains strong support for funding initiatives to further advances in the early detection, diagnosis, and prevention of disorders and diseases, from cancer, to diabetes, to aids, by enhancing funding for the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus caring budget. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this substitute budget which strengthens the Nation's fiscal policy and priorities in a responsible and compassionate manner.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN F. INGRO

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, after 20 years of distinguished service for the State of California, the Honorable John F. Ingro is retiring. His dedication and tireless commitment to the pursuit of justice as a San Bernardino Superior Court Judge has been well regarded and appreciated. Not only has the Honorable John F. Ingro served admirably as a judge, but also as an outstanding member of his community. With his involvement on the board of directors of various community organizations, Judge Ingro has become a valued asset to the San Bernardino area.

Judge Ingro first began his career in law after receiving his doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, in 1959. Upon receiving his degree, Mr. Ingro was subsequently admitted to the California State Bar in 1960. From 1960 to 1964, he served as deputy district attorney for the County of San Bernardino, and then as a deputy public defender for the county from 1964 to 1965.

After his brief tenure for the county, Judge Ingro maintained a private law practice for 9 years. On May 6, 1976, he was appointed to the San Bernardino Superior Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown. Following his appointment, Mr. Ingro was reelected for three consecutive terms, in 1978, 1984, and 1990.

His service to the county of San Bernardino will be missed, and I wish the Honorable John F. Ingro a prosperous and happy retirement.

WELFARE REFORM

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, President Clinton delivered a speech which I believe significantly advances the national debate over reforming our welfare system.

The President applauded and endorsed the general idea behind the welfare reform plans

in the States of Wisconsin and Maryland. In doing so, the President has, in his own words, given "us hope that we can break the vicious cycle of welfare dependency."

I'm heartened by this move and the clear evidence that the White House, Congress, and the States are finally coming together on the best possible way to take people off the national dole and put them to work at the same time strengthening families and protecting innocent children.

Most of us agree that the Federal Government still has an indispensable role to play in the welfare system by setting guidelines that ensure able-bodied citizens work for their checks and that children are fed, clothed, and cared for while their parents are on the job.

But most of us also agree that it makes good fiscal and common sense to give the States and their Governors greater flexibility and incentives to find the most effective and efficient local solutions to problems in the welfare system.

I've long supported reforming our welfare system in a way that promotes work, protects children, and empowers States. That's why I'm so encouraged by the initiative of States like Maryland and Wisconsin and the President's approval of welfare system waivers for 38 States—including one for my home State of South Dakota.

States are demonstrating that we can move forward in reforming our welfare system without too heavy a hand from the Federal Government. Their ingenuity should be praised and their plan should be used as an example for all of us to finally come together and find a sensible, effective approach to taking care of our kids, putting people to work, and moving Americans out of poverty.

If we put our children first and partisan politics aside, I believe we can do this.

HONORING THE CORNERSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Cornersville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.